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Michigan Professional **FIRE FIGHTERS UNION**

Paul Hufnagel
President

1651 Kingsway Ct., Ste. E, Trenton, MI 48183
1.800.886.7338 fax 1.800.454.1757

Terrence H. Chesney
Secretary-Treasurer

June 4, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: PS Docket No. 07-8, CC Docket No. 94-102; WT Docket Nos. 03-264; 06-150, 06-169 and 96-86; EB Docket No. 06-119

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union, I am writing to request your support for auction rules which would establish a National Public Safety Broadband Network. With the upcoming 700 MHz auction, our nation has a unique opportunity to use a contiguous block of frequencies in the upper 700 MHz band to provide public safety with an advanced, nationwide communications network while harnessing the economic benefits of a shared public/private partnership with commercial wireless operators. Most important, for the first time, first responders will be in control of our communications network that will put **us** permanently where we belong — at the forefront of telecommunications innovation. America's first responders and others directly involved with protecting our homeland **deserve** nothing **less** as lives will depend on it.

The members of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union put our lives on the line every day as we respond to fire-related emergencies **as** well as car accidents, natural disasters, terrorist threats and a myriad other medical emergencies. We are the men and women who enter burning buildings and we are the men and women who place the safety of others before our very own. We are proud of **what we** do and operable communications is a critical tool **that** enables us to save lives and property.

The Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union takes issue with those who would place commercial interests before the interests of public safety. The auction of the 700 MHz spectrum block **is** public **safety's** last, best opportunity to achieve both operable and interoperable communications. We do not have sufficient spectrum and we do not have operable communications, let alone interoperable communications. **As** a nation we have stood by for far too long **as** our communications **system** failed our nation's first responders. The time has come to do what **is** right for public safety.

The Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union respectfully seeks from the FCC:

- License public safety's spectrum to a stand alone entity consisting of public safety leaders **who** will control the network and ensure it will be built to the standards of reliability **and** redundancy that public **safety** requires while **also** ensuring that the needs of local and regional stakeholders are understood;
- Create and auction a 10 MHz or larger "**E**Block" of the 700 MHz band;
- Require the winner of the auction of this E Block to have a binding agreement with public safety for its participation in the National Public Safety Broadband Network *before* receiving their license;
- Support a public/private partnership and provide Public Safety with the ability to build-out in rural and underserved areas;
- Ensure that public safety in charge of the National Public **Safety** Broadband Network and not subordinate to the E Block auction winner **as well** as ensure that the National Public Safety Broadband Network stays competitive on the commercial side bringing **the** highest **level** of technology to public safety **users**;
- Ensure access to a satellite **overlay** to extend the reach **of** Public Safety's network;

Providing our nation's first responders with the same communications capabilities commercial customers have **is** of critical importance to the MPFFU. Please **do** not allow this last, best opportunity to pass us by.

Sincerely,



Paul L. Hufnagel, President
Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union

Copy: The Honorable John Dingell
The Honorable Bart Stupak
The Honorable Fred Upton
The Honorable Mike *Rogers*
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan **S.** Adelstein
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Robert **M.** McDowell
Secretary Marlene **H.** Dortch